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## OBITUARY



JOHN W. ALEXANDER

The retiring president of the National Academy, John W. Alexander, who was to have been succeeded on June 7 by the president-elect J. Alden Weir, now absent in California, died on May 7 in this city of heart disease aged 58. A native of Allegheny City, Pa., he came here when 17 and entered the art department of Harper & Bros. at first as an office boy, but purposing to become an artist. After some three years work as an illustrator young Alexander, who early showed decided talent, went abroad to study, passing some time at Munich, and in Venice and Florence. Mr. Alexander whose art was essentially decorative and refined, was pre-eminently a mural and portrait painter although he produced many graceful female figure subjects. One of his first portraits was that of the then veteran Thurlow Weed. Others in the public eye he subsequently pictured were Oliver Wendell Holmes, Walt Whitman, Joseph Jefferson, Parke Godwin, John Burroughs, John Gilbert, Maud Adams, Alphonse Raudet, Robert Louis Stevenson, Whistler, Drs. McCosh and Patten of Princeton, E. C. Benedict and Presidents Cleveland and Loubet.

In 1891 the artist, who had married in 1887 Miss Elizabeth Alexander, a daughter of James W. Alexander, then President of the Equitable Life Ass'n, who survives him with a son, Prof. James W. Alexander 2nd, of Princeton, went abroad for his health and incidentally, after visiting Spain and Morocco and settling in a Paris studio firmly established his reputation by important contributions to the New Salon, beginning in 1893, when he sent three women's portraits. That year he was elected an Associate of the Beaux Arts Society and became a Sociétaire the following year. In 1901 he was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. In 1898 the French Government purchased his "Green Bowl."

Among the artist's murals in public institutions are the "Evolution of the Book," in the Congress Library, and the "Crowning of Labor" in the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh. His "Portrait of Rodin" is in the Cincinnati Museum, his Carnegie Gold Medal "Sunlight" in the new Minneapolis Museum, "Isabella and the Pot of Basil" in the Boston Museum, "The Mirror" in the Petrograd Museum, and the "Portraits of Walt Whitman and Henry G. Marquand" and "Black and Green," in the Metropolitan Museum.

Mr. Alexander was a member of the N. Y. American Watercolor, Mural Painters and Portrait Painters Societies, of the London International Society, of the Vienna and Munich Successions and of the N. Y. Architectural League. While President of the National Academy he was, through this position, also a Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum. He was also President for some years of the MacDowell Club, and was in fact President of so many organizations of an art or allied nature that he was once nicknamed "The Great American art President." A man of a singularly suave and agreeable manner and personality an exceptional raconteur, and possessed of much tact and rare political acumen, he won his way through these qualities to prominence, quite as much through his art.

Mr. Alexander with the able assistance of his wife, designed the scenery and costumes for the late Charles Frohman's production of "Chanticleer" and his services were always in demand for the arrangement and posing of Society tableaux. He was a life member of the Calumet and a member of the Century and Metropolitan Clubs. His funeral, at the Church of the Ascension June 3, brought out a representative attendance of artists and art lovers. The interment took place in the famous Princeton, N. J., Cemetery.

## Edgar M. Ward.

Edgar Melville Ward, the genre painter and brother of the late J. Q. A. Ward the sculptor, died May 18 last, after several years illness, aged seventy-six. He was born in Urbana, Ohio, founded by his grandfather, Col. William Ward. After graduating from Miami University, he studied art in the National Academy schools and at the Paris Beaux Arts, under Catanel. He remained in France and Germany eight years winning several school awards and a Salon medal, the last with "The Sabot Maker," purchased by the French Government, as was also a later picture "Fraternal Pride."

On his return here Mr. Ward who was a man of singular charm of manner and a strong painter was elected in 1883 a member of the National Academy, later becoming a professor in its schools and continuing so until 1909. At the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901, the painter's "Taxidermist" received a medal and his exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition brought another. The late Whitelaw Reid and Benjamin Altman were among the artists friends who presented his "The Copper-smith" to the Metropolitan Museum. Mr. William T. Evans presented Ward's "Clock-maker" to the Corcoran Gallery.

Mr. Ward was a member of the Alpha Delta Phi Club and of the Century Association. His home and studio were in the old Tenth Street Building and he is survived by a widow, a sister, and a son of the same name, also an artist.

## William R. Ware.

Dr. William Robert Ware, professor emeritus of architecture of Columbia University, and designer of a number of public buildings, died on Wednesday at his home at Milton, Mass., at the age of eighty-three. Graduating from Harvard in 1852 Prof. Ware began early to teach architecture, meanwhile working as an architect in Boston from 1860-1881. During the greater part of that time he was professor of architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Lawrence Scientific School. From 1881 to 1903 Prof. Ware, was professor of Architecture at Columbia. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Harvard in 1896, was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and an honorary correspondent of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He was the author of several textbooks. A member of the commissions that designed the buildings of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo and the capitol at Harrisburg, Pa., Prof. Ware was the designer of the Union Passenger Station at Worcester, Mass., the Theological School Buildings and the Weld and Memorial Halls at Harvard and the Harvard Medical School in Boston. Prof. Ware was unmarried.

## Fred Winthrop Ramsdell.

Fred Winthrop Ramsdell, born in 1865, died at his home in Manistee, Mich., May 27th last. He studied at the Art Students' League under Carroll Beckwith, and in Paris under Raphael Collin. He painted portraits and landscapes with equal facility, and exhibited in the Salon and the Chicago World's Fair.

After several years spent in France and Italy he returned to America, joining the colony of painters at Lyme, Conn., where he was a member of the Lyme Art Association, and was active in furthering the project to build the new gallery. Mr. Ramsdell will be remembered, not only for his artistic attainments, but for his attractive personality and sunny nature which won him friends everywhere and made him universally beloved.

## Burr H. Nicholls.

Burr H. Nicholls died in May at Lockport, N. Y., his birthplace, aged 66. He studied with L. G. Sellstedt in Buffalo and with Carolus Duran, at the Paris Beaux Arts. He was an exhibitor at the Paris Salon, the Dudley Gallery, London, and at the leading American exhibitions. His "Effect of Sunlight" is at the Pa. Academy, "The Vegetable Garden" at the Peabody Institute, Balto. and "Hunting up a Quotation" and "A Group of Fowls" at the Albright Gallery. Mr. Nicholls, who leaves two children, was three times married, first to Alice McConnell of Medina, second to Rhoda Holmes, the well known artist, who is an Englishwoman and who divorced him, and third to Miss Josephine Lewis of Buffalo.

## Edwin S. Bennett.

Edwin S. Bennett, a photographer who specialized in pictures and sculptures, and had an office in the Studio Building, 51 West 10 St., died of heart disease this week at the age of 70 at the home of his brother-in-law, the Rev. Dr. James Howard Hoyt, at New Canaan, Conn. Mr. Bennett is survived by a son, Dr. Edwin S. Bennett, who is now with the French army.

## James William Pattison.

James William Pattison, a Chicago artist and art writer, and editor of the "Fine Arts Journal" of that city, died in Asheville, N. C., May 29, last, aged 71. He was born in Boston in 1844, fought on the Union side in the Civil War, later studied under James Hart, R. Swain Gifford and George Inness, and still later, in Paris and Dusseldorf. Returning from abroad in 1883 he was Director of the Fine Arts School at Jacksonville, Ill., until 1896, and in 1898 became Faculty lecturer at the Chicago Art Institute, where his best-known painting, "Tranquility," hangs. He exhibited many times at the Paris Salons and in the leading American exhibitions. He is survived by his third wife and two daughters.

## Charles William Dowdeswell.

Charles William Dowdeswell, the original founder of the Dowdeswell Galleries more than half a century ago, died at Surliton, England, May 11 last, aged 83. He was a distinguished judge of English watercolors and specialized also in the work of the modern Dutch School. Whistler held three famous exhibitions in his galleries in the eighties, and Mr. Dowdeswell afterwards published sets of twenty-six of his etchings at the price of £50 the set. Single plates of this series have since sold for £160 apiece. Throughout his life he continued to do pioneer work in the introduction of new artists to the English public, being the first to make it acquainted with the work of Segantini and other continental painters of note.

It was in the early eighties that he moved from Chancery Lane to 133, New Bond Street. He was quite abreast, if not a little ahead, of his times, and was one of the first dealers to offer the work of modern Dutch Masters of the Mauve and Maris class (then to be had at cost of a few pounds a-piece) in England. He later took up the works of the French impressionists, and, for a period, had close relations with Whistler who was not noted for having cordial relations with any publisher over an extended period. Mr. Dowdeswell retired from business some seven or eight years ago, and his two sons—Walter, a partner in Duveen's, and Charles, who now carries on the business of the firm of Dowdeswell & Dowdeswell's at its present address, 160 New Bond Street—enjoy more than a British reputation in the world of Art. It may be mentioned that C. W. Dowdeswell was the first dealer on this side to take an interest in the work of Charles Méryon, the French etcher, and that he published many works by David Law and R. W. Macbeth, only to mention two out of many modern artists he employed.

## Eliot Gregory.

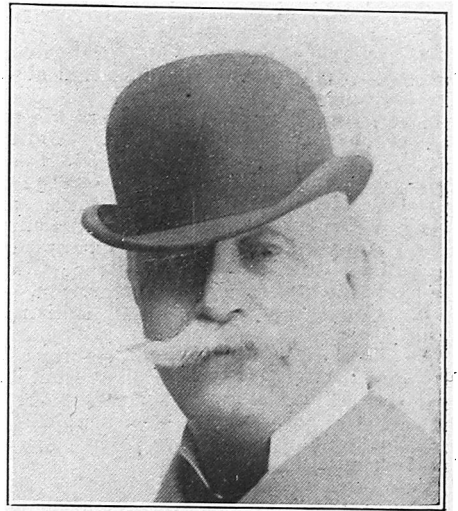
Eliot Gregory, well known as a painter, litterateur and man of the world, died May 1 in his 61st year in this city of which he was a native. Graduating from Yale in 1880 he went abroad and studied art in Paris under Carolus Duran and Rome. His "Coquetterie" brought him a gold medal at the Salon in 1899. Among his many portraits were those of Ala Rehan, long in the lobby of Daly's Theatre, the late August Belmont, and of General Cullon which forms part of the Cullon Memorial at West Point. As "An Idler" he wrote a series of charming, cynical essays in the "Evening Post" and among the volumes he published were "Worldly Ways and Byways" and "The Ways of Men." He wrote much on French subjects and was prominent in Franco-American affairs. On these accounts he was made in 1911 a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Mr. Gregory was very fond of music and the drama and was a director of the Metropolitan Opera House and one of the founders of the New Theatre. He was a member of the Knickerbocker Club. He is survived by a brother Mr. Franklin Gregory.

## Charles Alexander.

Charles Alexander, a prominent Canadian artist, is dead in London. Alexander's work was highly appreciated in Canada and among his most notable pictures was that of the officers of the Life Guards of which the late King Edward was colonel-in-chief. He was born and for years resided in Galt, Ont. He studied with leading Parisian artists and exhibited in the Salon. He leaves four brothers in Galt, Ont., and one sister, Mrs. T. N. Summer of London, Ont.

## Mrs. Henry W. Ranger.

Mrs. Henry W. Ranger, wife of Henry W. Ranger the American artist, died in Milan, Italy, where she had resided for the past three years, last week. Mr. Ranger who went over to visit her last year was contemplating another trip when the sad news came. She had been in bad health for sometime past. Mrs. Ranger, who married the artist in 1883 was Miss Helen Eudora Jennings of Medford, Mass.



DAVID NEAL

Word was recently received by his nephew Mr. David B. Emerson of this city, of the death on May 2, in Munich of the distinguished American historical painter, David Neal, aged seventy-seven. This most famous American pupil of Piloty was born in October, 1837 at Lowell, Mass, the son of Stephen B. Neal and Mary M. Dolloff. Starting in life as a clerk in New Orleans he left that city at the age of fifteen and joined his father in San Francisco. First apprenticed to a wood engraver, he soon became a draughtsman on wood. In 1861 he went to Munich where he made his home, returning on a number of visits to his native land. The following year he entered the Bavarian Royal Academy, studying for two years from the antique and later becoming a pupil of his father-in-law to be, Chevalier Einmüller of the Royal Barvarian Glass works. It was in 1869 that he entered the Studio of Piloty and devoted himself entirely to figure painting, remaining until 1876, but visiting America in 1871 and 1872. Before this he had won recognition with several architectural works. Two were "The Chapel of the Kings, Westminster Abbey" which became the property of Mr. Francis Cutting, of Boston and "St. Marks, Venice" in the collection of Mr. Samuel Nickerson, of Chicago. Both of these were exhibited in 1869 at the Munich International Art Exhibition and at the National Academy in this city. It was in 1876 that the painters best known work "The First Meeting of Mary Stuart and Rizzio" won the gold medal of the Royal Bavarian Academy and established his reputation as a strong and dramatic painter. This work, after display at the Munich Art Union, in London and in various American cities became the property of the late D. O. Mills. "The Return from the Chase" once belonged to the late John Bloodgood and another version of the same subject was bought by Mr. Moses P. Stevens, of North Andover, Mass. Other works of note are "Trust" of whose location there is no record; "James Watt" shown at the London Royal Academy in 1874 and the property of Lord Mayor Sir B. S. Phillips; "Cromwell Visiting Milton," now in the Public Library at Cleveland; "Nuns at Prayer" in the Royal Gallery at Stuttgart; "The Burgomaster" and "The Return." On his numerous visits to the United States David Neal painted nearly 80 portraits, including those of Whitelaw Reid, the first Mrs. W. C. Whitney, the twin daughters of Ogden Mills, Esq., Lady Granard and Mr. Burke, of members of the families of Mr. Brush, of Cleveland, Charles Crocker, of San Francisco and Robert Garrett of Baltimore and several for Princeton University one of Prof. Samuel Green D.D. His last works were portraits of the three New Jersey signers of the Declaration, for the N. J. Chapter of the D. A. R., which are now in Washington. The artist is survived by two sons, Max Neal, the dramatist, of Munich and Heinrich Neal, Capellmeister at Heidelberg.

## Charles A. Fiske.

Charles Albert Fiske, who formerly made his home in this city, died May 13, in the Hospital, Greenwich, Conn. He was born in Albred, Me., in 1837, was graduated from Dartmouth, and was at one time an exhibitor at the National Academy. He was a member of the Greenwich Society of Artists, and is survived by a son and daughter.

## Elmer Chickering.

Elmer Chickering, a leading Boston photographer died there, May 14 last. He made a specialty of photographing people in public life. Born in 1857 at Brandon, Vt. he went to Boston and opened a studio, thirty years ago. He leaves a widow.